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TAXONOMY

Harold Morrison, in Charge

The Barnes collection of Lepidoptera, purchased for the Department of Agriculture, arrived in Washington on the afternoon of August 8, after having been packed and shipped from Decatur, Ill., under the supervision of Messrs. Heinrich and Busck, of the Bureau staff. The collection and accessories made a load of about 45,000 pounds, practically filling a large express car and presenting serious difficulties in the matter of proper handling. The collection arrived in excellent condition and is already placed in the National Museum, and so is available for reference and study.

Prof. G. C. Crampton, of the department of entomology, Massachusetts Agricultural College, at Amherst, visited the National Museum August 5 to examine certain Diptera in connection with some morphological studies which he has in progress.

Prof. P. W. Fattig, of the Museum, Emory University, Ga., spent parts of the time from August 18 to August 23 in the taxonomic unit in consultation with the Bureau's specialists. While here he obtained identifications of many insects which he had brought to Washington with him.

Nathan Banks, P. J. Darlington, and F. M. Carpenter, from the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, stopped in Washington and visited the Division of Insects August 19, en route to the Smoky Mountains, in North Carolina, where an extensive collecting trip has been planned.

H. K. Plank, of the technical staff of the Tropical Plant Research Foundation, called at the National Museum on August 21 to leave for identification a number of specimens of insects which had been collected in Cuba in connection with economic investigations on sugarcane insects in that island.

Dr. H. E. Ewing, of the taxonomic unit, reports that as a result of his work in the field during the summer he has discovered two interesting new hosts for the chigger--the mud turtle and the leopard frog. The chigger has been previously found on the box turtle.

DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECTS

A. L. Quaintance, in Charge

On August 26 Dr. Herbert Osborn, of Ohio State University, and Dr. F. W. Poos, in charge of investigations of forage-crop insects at Arlington, Va., made a brief visit to the field laboratory at Vincennes, Ind., and later to that at Bentonville, Ark.

John Gray has been appointed Entomologist, pending certification, and assigned to the study of the ecology of the oriental fruit moth, with headquarters at Moorestown, N. J. Dr. Gray was formerly Professor of Entomology and Plant Pathology at the University of Florida, and has recently received a doctor's degree from Cornell University.

Dr. H. W. Allen and Dr. John Gray recently visited the Dominion Parasite Laboratory at Belleville, Ontario.

B. E. Montgomery, J. T. Creighton, R. C. Newton, Earl Lott, A. J. Warren, and Stanley Slater have been appointed temporary Field Assistants and assigned to the work on the oriental fruit moth.

Approximately 35,000 adults of the parasite Macrocentrus ancylivora have been reared and distributed from the oriental fruit moth field laboratory at Moorestown, N. J., in this season. They were liberated in 70 colonies in important peach-growing centers east of the Mississippi River in which this parasite had not previously been found. In this program, and in supplementary projects undertaken by the Canadian government and by several States, this laboratory has worked in close cooperation with a number of others. The entomological services of those States have cooperated actively in the work of distribution and recovery. Several States have undertaken mass rearing of this valuable parasite from parasitized material collected in New Jersey. To meet the demand, an additional 400,000 parasitized larvae have been collected and shipped from this center under the supervision of this laboratory. Numerous recoveries have been made and the results to date seem very promising.

G. J. Haeussler, who is investigating parasites of the oriental fruit moth, with headquarters at Antibes, France, reports that several parasites of this insect are present in southern Europe, but are relatively lacking in abundance. He has begun mass rearing of a species of Pristomerus for shipment to the United States.

Contributions from the Japanese-Beetle Laboratory

On August 5 E. J. Hoddy, Agricultural Agent for the Louisville & Nashville R. R., visited the Japanese-Beetle Laboratory to confer with Dr. W. E. Fleming and J. W. Lipp concerning carbon-disulphide emulsions used in the control of larvae of the Japanese beetle and their possible use in the control of root aphids.

J. V. Schaffner, jr., and C. M. Symonds, of the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory, Melrose Highlands, Mass., visited the laboratory on August 14 to inspect the equipment for work on parasites.

On August 14 Lieut. A. R. Morrison, of Mitchell Field, Long Island, who is engaged in experiments on the control of the cotton-boll weevil, visited the laboratory to confer with E. R. Van Leeuwen concerning arsenicals which had been used in experimental work on the Japanese beetle.

FOREST INSECTS

F. C. Craighead, in Charge

Dr. Craighead returned about the middle of August from a trip to the western field laboratories of this division.

On August 25 R. A. St. George returned to Asheville, N. C., from Wisdom, Mont., where for a few weeks he has been conducting studies on a proposed method of killing the mountain pine beetle in lodgepole pine by injecting poison into the infested trees. The object sought is a less expensive method of controlling bark beetles.

Dr. Ernest Bateman, Chemist at the Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, Wis., spent August 25 to 29, inclusive, at the field laboratory at Bent Creek, near Asheville, N. C., conferring with R. A. St. George and R. W. Caird regarding the chemicals used in a study of control of the southern pine beetle in shortleaf pine by injecting poison into the infested trees.

Contributions from the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory

Recent visitors at the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory included Dr. T. L. Patterson, Detroit, Mich., August 2, G. A. Smith, Massachusetts Department of Conservation, Boston, August 18, Dr. Alden D. Speare, Nashua, N. H., August 21, W. A. Baker, European Corn Borer Laboratory, Monroe, Mich., and Dr. H. M. Tietz, State College, Pa., August 26, L. S. McLaine, Entomological Branch, Canadian Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and H. N. Worthley, State College, Pa., August 28, and E. H. Wheeler, Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y., August 30.

J. V. Schaffner, jr., and C. M. Symonds, of the Gipsy-Moth Laboratory, spent August 12 to 23 on a collecting trip through parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and central and western New York, the object being to secure information concerning the southern and western spread of the tachinid parasite Compsilura concinnata Meig. Collections of larvae of species of Lepidoptera which the tachinid is known to attack were made and sent to the laboratory. Mr. Schaffner has made such trips each summer for several years, going each year into territory outside the area where the parasite has been recovered from collections made in previous years.

TROPICAL, SUBTROPICAL AND ORNAMENTAL PLANT INSECTS

A. C. Baker, in Charge

Dr. Baker, after making a brief stop at the field laboratory at Whittier, Calif., for a conference with the members of the staff there, sailed from Los Angeles August 9 for Honolulu, to reorganize the field laboratory there, as was stated in the News Letter for July.

Dr. Wm. H. Mitchell, jr., accompanied Dr. Baker to Honolulu, where he will be engaged in research work on the Mediterranean fruit fly.

O. C. McBride was transferred from the Bureau of Entomology to the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration, effective August 15, and left Orlando, Fla., on August 25 en route for Honolulu, where he will be in charge of the work being organized there on the Mediterranean fruit fly. This work is to be carried on under the direction of the Bureau of Entomology, but paid for by funds provided by the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration.

M. McPhail and C. B. Keck were also transferred to the Plant Quarantine and Control Administration, as of August 1, and left Orlando, Fla., for Honolulu, to join the research workers on the Mediterranean fruit fly. En route they stopped at Whittier, Calif., to look over the equipment at the laboratory there.

Ralph Marlowe, formerly connected with the research work at Orlando, will also join the staff at Honolulu, and expects to sail with Messrs. McBride, McPhail, and Keck early in September.

F. J. Spruijt, of the field laboratory at Babylon, L. I., N. Y., was in Washington August 7, to confer with Bureau officials in regard to work of the project under his direction.

Dr. C. A. Weigel spent August 26 to 29 in Babylon, L. I., taking part in the inauguration of the heat and vapor treatments of narcissus and other bulbous stocks being conducted there.

In response to requests from the citrus interests in southern California, E. A. McGregor was absent from his headquarters at Lindsay, Calif., from August 3 to August 25, inclusive. His chief purpose in visiting southern California was to study the aftereffect on scale control of the dusting of citrus groves with finely divided sulphurs. Certain positive conclusions were reached. In addition, scorings were made in 43 orange groves in 5 counties of Southern California with reference to occurrence of thrips and the red spider.

Six days were spent by Mr. McGregor in a study of the problems relating to citrus pests in Arizona. This work was done in response to a special request from the field department of the California Fruit Growers Exchange. Contacts were made with several leaders in the citrus industry in Arizona, and a modest start was made toward control of the citrus pests.

COTTON INSECTS

B. R. Coad, in Charge

Professor Filippo Silvestri, head of the Agricultural Institute of Portici, Italy, spent August 28 at Tallulah, where he was shown through the various departments of the field laboratory. He was especially interested in the dusting of cotton by airplanes, and was enthusiastic in his praise of the laboratory's scientific equipment and the extent of its operations. His visit to the South was intended particularly to study at first hand the cane borer and the boll weevil. Before sailing for Italy, at the end of September, Professor Silvestri will visit Columbus, Ohio, the Experiment Stations of New Jersey and Massachusetts, and the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, D. C.

C. H. Billett, photographer, left Tallulah in August for an extended trip in the West, taking with him a complete photographic field equipment. He will visit the field laboratories at El Paso and Presidio, Tex., Tucson, Ariz., Calexico, Calif., and elsewhere, to make photographs of the various phases of the investigations of the pink bollworm, Thurberia weevil, and cotton leaf perforator.

A. J. Chapman left Tallulah in the latter part of August for a new assignment at Presidio, Tex., where he will devote his time to investigations of the cultural methods of controlling the pink bollworm.

Mr. Coad has gone on an extended western trip, to last probably two months, during which he will visit the field laboratories dealing with cotton insects occurring in western Texas, Mexico, Arizona, and California.

H. C. Young has completed his season's work on the boll weevil in Oklahoma, and has gone to El Paso, Tex., to take up his winter project on the pink bollworm and the Thurberia weevil.

In August F. J. Potter, Glen Willingham, John H. Russell, William C. O'Dowd, John M. Landrum, and Lester E. Turberville were appointed Field Assistants.

In the month of August the resignations of Harlow B. Mills, James Watkins, Phil H. Berry and F. J. Potter, Field Assistants, became effective.

BEE CULTURE

James I. Hambleton, in Charge

E. L. Sechrist returned on August 4 after visiting the cooperators who are helping in the studies on apiary management and costs of honey production, in Ohio, Iowa, Minnesota, and Michigan. This work is being done in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, and with the beekeeping specialists in the various States. Some of the State specialists in economics are also taking an active part in these studies.

Jas. I. Hambleton attended the meeting of the Massachusetts State Beekeepers' Association, at Amherst, on August 1. At the conclusion of the meeting he left in company with Dr. E. F. Phillips, to visit the apicultural laboratory at Cornell University. On August 4 Mr. Hambleton conferred with Prof. W. E. Dunham and S. E. Bailey, at Holgate, Ohio, and with the specialists at the Northwestern Experiment Farm, relative to experiments now in progress dealing with the effect of honeybees upon the pollination of red clover. Excellent cooperation has been given by the beekeepers in the vicinity of Holgate in making these experiments a success. On August 6 to 8 Mr. Hambleton participated in a series of field meetings in Michigan, which extended through the new clover regions of northern Michigan as far as Sault Sainte Marie. These meetings were well attended and were participated in by a number of beekeepers from Ohio. Mr. Hambleton also spoke at the meeting of the Wisconsin State Beekeepers' Association, at Madison. While there he had an opportunity to inspect the H. J. O. Walker collection of beekeeping literature which has just been acquired by the Miller Memorial Library. The Walker collection is one of the best collections of bee books in existence, many volumes being beautifully bound by hand. En route to Washington, Mr. Hambleton stopped at Columbus, Ohio, and conferred with Prof. W. B. Herms, of the University of California, who has been on the summer faculty of Ohio State University.

Dr. Everett Oertel, of the Southern States Bee Culture Field Laboratory, Baton Rouge, La., gave two addresses before the Florida State Beekeepers' Association at Gainesville, on August 13 and 14. Doctor Oertel reports that there is considerable interest among the Florida producers in a proposed association for the purpose of bringing their honey to a central point, where it can be blended, packed, and distributed.

Dr. Lloyd M. Bertholf, Field Assistant at the Bee Culture Laboratory, resigned on August 20. Doctor Bertholf, in company with Mrs. Bertholf, sailed on August 23 for Scotland, on his way to Munich, where for the coming year he will study with Doctor von Frisch under a National Research fellowship. En route, Doctor Bertholf will attend the meeting of the Apis Club International Conference, at London, on September 8 to 12, where he will deliver a lecture on the results of his recent experiments on the response of honeybees to light of different wave lengths.

Prof. Bruce Lineburg, of Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, Ill., visited the Bee Culture Laboratory on August 27.

W. B. Bray, one of the largest honey packers in New Zealand, executive of the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand, and owner and editor of the New Zealand Honey Producer, visited the Bee Culture Laboratory September 2 and 3. He is making an extended trip through Europe, Canada, and the United States, in the interest of honey marketing. Mr. Bray reports that through Government assistance New Zealand has made great strides in honey marketing, and he was particularly interested in learning what is being done in this country along that line. In the course of his stay in Washington he visited officials of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

Dr. Warren Whitcomb, jr., of the Southern States Bee Culture Field Laboratory, Baton Rouge, La., reports that at the meeting of the State Association of Queen Breeders and Package Shippers, which was held in conjunction with the meeting of the Texas State Beekeepers' Association, at College Station July 28 and 29, the package producers were well pleased with the progress being made by the Southern States Bee Culture Field Laboratory in recommending a satisfactory and uniform cage which could be used indiscriminately by all shippers of package bees. Doctor Whitcomb says that the use of a uniform package by the shippers will eliminate a great deal of confusion in the package-bee business, and that it will particularly enable the express companies to facilitate shipment. The cage that the laboratory has been working on is simple in construction, is therefore economical, and makes it possible to ship the bees with as little loss as the more expensive and complicated cages now being used by a number of shippers of package bees.

INSECTS AFFECTING MAN AND ANIMALS

F. C. Bishopp, in Charge

F. C. Bishopp spent the entire month of August in field travel. He made stops at the field laboratories at Galesburg, Ill., Fargo, N. Dak., and Portland, Oreg., and visited many intermediate points to make observations on insects injurious to livestock.

R. W. Wells, of the field laboratory at Galesburg, Ill., is temporarily located at the field laboratory at Beltsville, Md., where he is conducting tests of electrified screens for the control of house flies. He arrived at Beltsville August 15.

W. E. Dove, who has been placed in charge of investigations of the sand fly, with headquarters at Charleston, S. C., arrived there August 19 to take up his duties under the new assignment.

TRUCK-CROP INSECTS

J. E. Graf, in Charge

L. B. Reed, who has been investigating the sweet-potato weevil at Picayune, Miss., was recently transferred to Chadbourn, N. C., to assist in investigations on the strawberry root aphid.

Dr. E. M. Searls, Madison, Wis., visited Washington, D. C., August 25 to 26, to confer with officials there. Dr. Searls expects to leave the Bureau of Entomology on September 1, to accept a position with the University of Wisconsin.

C. F. Stahl, recently assigned to investigations of celery insects at Sanford, Fla., visited Washington, D. C., August 25 to 29, to confer with officials regarding this work.

Rodney Cecil, who has been in charge of the field laboratory at Geneva, N. Y., for the study of the Mexican bean beetle, was transferred August 24 to Alhambra, Calif., where he will inaugurate work on the lima-bean pod borer.

M. C. Lane, Walla Walla, Wash., visited Blairmore, Alberta, Canada, August 27 and 28, where he conferred with Canadian entomologists and others regarding investigations of the wireworm.

Temporary appointments as Field Assistants have been given to R. S. Lehman, for service at Walla Walla, Wash., M. V. Lowe, at Chadbourn, N. C., and C. E. Woodworth, at Madison, Wis.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECTS

W. H. Larrimer, in Charge

As a result of the removal of the Bureau of Entomology from the old, red-brick building on the Mall to Temporary War Building "C", near 7th and B Streets, S. W., this division is now located in Rooms 218-228, on the second floor of the third wing of that building. The office is now fairly well readjusted and if, during the moving, attention has not been given any important matter, it is requested that we be further notified.

Doctor Larrimer returned to the Washington Office on August 29, after an extended trip through northwestern Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma, for field observation on infestations by the Mormon cricket, the range caterpillar, and the southwestern corn borer.

W. P. Flint, Chief Entomologist of the State Natural History Survey, Urbana, Ill., visited the Washington office on July 29.

H. A. Jaynes, stationed in Peru, has sent to New Orleans during the summer almost 170,000 parasites of the sugarcane moth borer. Most of these were the dipterous species Paratheresia claripalpis, but there were 10,000 specimens of a species of Ipobracon.

E. K. Bynum, formerly connected with the State experiment stations of Florida and Mississippi, has been assisting the force of the field laboratory at New Orleans in receiving and releasing the parasites from Peru.

STORED-PRODUCT INSECTS

E. A. Back, in Charge

A. O. Larson, who has been in charge of investigations of the bean weevil in California, has been transferred to the Pacific Northwest, where he has been placed in charge of investigations of the pea weevil, with headquarters at the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, at Corvallis. The truck transporting Mr. Larson's household effects to Oregon was demolished in an accident, and all of Mr. Larson's goods were destroyed by fire. Fortunately, they were insured.

C. K. Fisher returned to California in July, after a conference in Washington regarding investigations of the bean weevil, in charge of which he has been placed.

The laboratory for the study of insects affecting cured tobacco in the bright-tobacco belt has been located at 515 Jefferson St., Danville, Va. W. D. Reed, formerly of the dried-fruit insect investigations, has been placed in charge.

At the request of the county agents of Cook, Laurens and Lanier Counties, Ga., S. E. McClendon gave them assistance in August in their work of controlling the corn weevil. Weevils will have a hard time in the western parts of Georgia and South Carolina, where drought is reported to have ruined the corn crop.

At the request of the tobacco interests, W. D. Reed attended the tobacco markets which opened at Valdosta, Ga., July 29, and at Lake City, S. C., August 5. In July and August Mr. Reed also visited tobacco establishments in Washington, Greenfield, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Farmville, Wendell, Smithfield, Kinston, Durham, and New Bern, all in North Carolina. He also made a careful survey of the tobacco plants in Richmond and Norfolk.

W. C. Wooding, jr., who was employed during July and August at the field laboratory at Danville, Va., has left the service to continue his studies at the University of Virginia.

In August George W. Ellington treated a number of ham-curing establishments in Virginia and Maryland.

On August 20 Dr. Back visited Richmond, where, with W. D. Reed, he examined a serious infestation by Ephestia elutella in hogshead tobacco.

Dr. R. T. Cotton spent August 26 in Norfolk, where he inspected a number of peanut warehouses.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

NEW BOOKS

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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The following abstracts of recent decisions of the Comptroller General of the United States, are of general interest:

Vol. 9, A-31014, page 430: Subsistence - Meals Taken after Arrival at Post of Duty.

"An employee whose official duty station is New York City who, in returning from a trip on official business, arrived at the Grand Central Terminal at 6:35 p. m., is not entitled to reimbursement for the cost of a meal taken after arrival, under the Standardized Government Travel Regulations.

A-31036, page 432: Contracts - Mistake - Cancellation - Readvertisement.

"Where, in requesting bids for the furnishing of steel to the Government, the wrong blue prints were sent to some of the bidders and the contract was awarded to one of the bidders to whom wrong blue prints had been sent, it should be canceled and the matter readvertised in order that bidding may be on common ground.

A-31074, page 434: Transportation of Household Effects - Uncrating.

"Where an officer of the Army, on duty as a military attache in a foreign country, has had his household effects transported at Government expense from his old station to his new station, including packing, crating, freight, and drayage to his new station, there is no authority under the act of March 23, 1928, 45 Stat. 333, to reimburse him for the cost of unpacking or uncrating the household effects at the new station.

A-30991, page 446: Contracts - Mistake in Bid.

"Where bids were requested for the furnishing of hardware for barrack chairs (seat bolts) and at the time of opening and consideration of the bids there was such a difference in the amount of the bids as to indicate a possible mistake in the low bid, and upon being asked to verify its bid, the bidder alleged mistake but furnished no evidence to establish the mistake and the bid was accepted and delivery made, payment therefor being made at the bid price, there is no authority for payment of any amount in excess thereof.

"The fact that the contractor elected to act on the department's instructions to make delivery of the supplies bid upon and to present a claim for any amount to which it believed itself entitled in addition to the contract price does not require or authorize allowance of the claim. In electing to follow such procedure the contractor removed from consideration the question as to whether under the facts and circumstances it could have been permitted to withdraw its bid.

A-31168, page 449: Compensation - Dismissal.
"The falsification of expense accounts by a postal employee constitutes such a violation of the oath of office and breach of contract of employment as to cause the forfeiture of compensation due for periods prior to date of suspension and dismissal.

A-31901, page 519: Advertising - Bids - Automobile Specifications - Nonessential Features.
"For ordinary uses all makes and grades of automobiles are for consideration in determining which will best meet the needs of the service and bids should be requested on specifications drawn, not by designation of a particular make, but should show only such details as to construction in performance requirements as can satisfactorily be shown to be necessary to meet the requirements of the service.
"Nonessential features, such as shock absorbers, instead of some other similar devices, and nonshatterable glass in the windshield, instead of some other glass, should not be made controlling if the work reasonably can be performed with automobiles not having such features or equipment; that is, the procedure should not be adopted of specifying as controlling a particular nonessential feature of an automobile, such as shatter-proof glass, shock absorbers, style of wheels, etc., thereby excluding bidders that do not offer the particular feature or causing such bidders to change their models so as to embrace such features, thereby increasing the cost and preventing real competition.

Vol. 10, A-32136: Subsistence Expenses - Hat Cl aning.
"The provisions of paragraph 58 of the Standardized Government Travel Regulations which provide for the cleaning and pressing of clothes of employees while in a travel status, do not authorize reimbursement of the expense of cleaning the traveler's hat."